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MALARIA CONTROL AT SAVANNAH, GA.

At the request of the city health officer of Savannah, Dr. W. F. Brunner, the United States Public Health Service supervised malaria-control measures conducted at Savannah, Ga., during the summer of 1920. The following summary of operations and results obtained was made from a detailed report prepared by Mr. W. A. Davis, who was in direct charge of the work, and from information concerning malaria prevalence in Savannah previous and subsequent to the antimalaria campaign in 1920, as collected by the city health officer and forwarded to the malaria field headquarters of the United States Public Health Service.

Approximately \$50,000 was expended in and around the city of Savannah during 1920 in malaria-control operations, of which \$30,000 was contributed by the city, \$7,000 by the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, and \$3,000 by the Central of Georgia Railroad. Convict labor employed by Chatham County was estimated at \$10,000.

The abandoned rice fields on the east and west sides of the city and on Hutchinson's Island demanded antimosquito measures of an unusual character, similar to those employed by the Public Health Service in 1918 at and around Wilmington, N. C. Until recently these lowlands were maintained in a state of "dry culture," but within the last few years the dikes, tide gates, and ditches have been neglected, and the fields, lying at an elevation of from 2 to 4 feet below mean high tide, were periodically flooded by the tides. Consequently they were prolific breeding places of *A. quadrimaculatus* and *A. crucians*. The control work included the repair of existing tide gates, the construction of additional gates, and some repairing of dikes, with a view to shutting out the tides. It also included the cleaning of old drainage ditches and the construction of new ditches for the drainage of ponded areas.

Two types of tide gates were employed: (1) The sheet steel canal-lock gate with the shutters opening like a barn door, and (2) the old rice-field gate, in which the shutter is swung from elevated supports.

In addition to this marsh work, many highland ponds were filled or drained, surface ditches were trained, catch basins and fire barrels were oiled or treated with larvicides, fish control was employed wherever possible, and regular inspections of potential mosquito-breeding places were made at necessary intervals. Altogether an area of 25 square miles was under control and a population of 100,000

persons was protected. Nine tide gates were repaired or built, 4.2 miles of new ditches were constructed, and 74.9 miles of existing ditches were cleaned and graded. The total length of ditches oiled during the season amounted to 407 miles, 4,075 gallons of oil being used.

A malaria survey was made in the city of Savannah December 18-23, 1919, by public health nurses, under the direction of the city health officer, for the purpose of determining the malaria prevalence within the city as based on history reports. In this survey different sections of the city were selected. Four hundred and forty-seven families were visited and 1,587 persons interrogated. Of these, 384, or 24 per cent, gave a history of having had malaria within the previous four months, and 55, or 3.5 per cent, had active malaria at the time of the survey. A similar survey was completed on January 20, 1921, in which 3,101 families were visited and 10,313 persons interrogated. This survey showed 456, or 4.4 per cent, with a history of malaria during the previous four months, and 52, or 0.5 per cent, active cases at the time the survey was made. From these surveys it appears that there was approximately five and one-half times as much malaria in Savannah, Ga., in the latter part of 1919, previous to the antimalaria operations, as there was during a similar period in 1920, following these operations.

It was recommended that the city of Savannah set aside \$30,000 for the extension and maintenance of antimalaria work during 1921, and assurance has been given that the city officials will continue this work with an adequate appropriation. The Seaboard Air Line and the Central of Georgia Railroads have also agreed to continue their support, and on this basis the United States Public Health Service will provide advisory supervision of malaria operations in and around Savannah during the summer of 1921.

SPLEEN EXAMINATIONS OF SCHOOL BOYS IN MITCHELL COUNTY, GA.

By M. A. BARBER, Special Expert, and C. P. COOGLE, Acting Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

In investigating malaria in Mitchell County, Ga., examinations were made of practically all the school boys in the public schools of Mitchell County, in order to determine what percentage of them showed splenic enlargements, and to what extent this method of examination can be depended upon to reveal the true status of malaria prevalence in a county similar to this. These examinations were made from January 19 to March 14, 1921, the majority of them being made during the month of February.